

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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61

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 232108Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3013
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 0777

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

EO: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PN CO
SUBJ: TORRIJOS' VISIT TO COLOMBIA

REF: BOGOTA 610 AND 673

1. BOTH PRESIDENT LOPEZ AND FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO TOLD ME SEPARATELY THAT GENERAL TORRIJOS AND FOREIGN MINISTER TACK TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THEIR VISIT TO ROLDANILLO (RETELS) TO BRIEF THEM IN DETAIL ON THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, WITH MAPS AND EVERYTHING. TORRIJOS AND TACK TOLD THEM THAT VERY MAJOR PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON THE THORNY ISSUES, WITH AGREEMENT HAVING BEEN REACHED ON MOST OF THEM. WHAT REMAINS TO BE WORKED OUT IS RELATIVELY SMALL AT THIS POINT. TORRIJOS AND TACK WERE QUITE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND BOTH LOPEZ AND LIEVANO OBSERVED TO ME THAT THE PROBLEM NOW SHIFTED TO TIMING AND THE PUBLIC PACKAGING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. LIEVANO CHARACTERIZED TORRIJOS AS BEING VERY SENSIBLE (SENSATO) AS REGARDS THE NEGOTIATIONS AND TORRIJOS' UNDERSTANDING OF THEM.

2. PRESIDENT LOPEZ TOLD ME THAT HE THOUGHT CONFIDENTIALLY THAT WITH REGARD TO PANAMA'S DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, TORRIJOS WAS OFF ON A BAD FOOT (MAL ENCAMINADO). HIS DEPORTATION OF DISSIDENTS GIVES HIM, LOPEZ THOUGHT, A DICTATORIAL AND ARBITRARY IMAGE AND ALL OCCURRING UPON HIS IMMEDIATE RETURN FROM CUBA. ALL THIS, LOPEZ
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THOUGHT, MIGHT COMPLICATE TORRIJOS' PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS.

3. THERE WERE APPARENTLY NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE ON OTHER ISSUES. I ASSUME, UT THEY DID NOT TELL ME, THAT TORRIJOS GAVE LOPEZ AND LIEVANO HIS DETAILED IMPRESSIONS OF HIS CUBAN VISIT.

VAKY

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Message Attributes

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